



SAN ANTONIO

POLICE

Office of the Chief of Police, Police Media Services, 214 W. Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78207
Office Telephone (210) 207-7579, Fax (210) 207-7567, Police Dispatcher (210) 207-7494

Contact: Sgt. Gabriel Trevino

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NEWS RELEASE

OFFICER INVOLVED TRAFFIC FATALITY

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved fatal accident reveals the following: On October 14, 2005, at approximately 1:52am, Officer John Wheeler, a 12-year SAPD veteran, was conducting traffic enforcement on S/B Loop 410 over Culebra Rd. Officer Wheeler had his marked patrol car parked on the inside shoulder when he was struck in the rear by a S/B 1994 Chevrolet Caprice. The impact dragged Officer Wheeler's patrol approximately 200 feet. Officer Wheeler's patrol car, and the car that struck him, ignited with fire that engulfed both cars. Responding emergency personnel were unable to get both Officer Wheeler and the other driver out of their respective cars and they both died at the scene.

Witnesses report that the Chevrolet Caprice was traveling approximately 90-100 MPH at the time of impact. The identity of the Chevrolet Caprice driver has not been determined.

Officer Wheeler is survived by his wife, who is a SAPD police dispatcher, and two daughters. Officer Wheeler was assigned to the West Police Substation and worked the overnight (dogwatch shift). Funeral arrangements are pending and once finalized will be announced via a media advisory.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE